

Remarks

The Examiner believes that:

This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species. The particular molecules recited in claim 1 wherein applicant is required to select a single molecule.

Restriction Requirement, pg. 2. The Applicants disagree because Claim 1, as amended in the previous office action response, provides a properly constructed Markush group:

The members of the Markush group ... ordinarily must belong to a recognized physical or chemical **class** or to an art-recognized **class**.

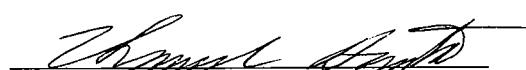
MPEP 803.02: Markush Claims [emphasis added]. Clearly, the present Markush group contains related elements to the art-recognized class of biosynthetic pathway intermediates and their respective enzymes.. The Examiner is referred to Figure 1, which details the relationships between the intermediate compounds and their respective enzymes.

Consequently, the Applicants traverse the present Restriction Requirement and respectfully request reconsideration. The Applicants, however, provide an election of the Examiners' offered species only because required to do so under 35 U.S.C. § 121. If the Examiner does not reconsider the present election of species, the Applicants elect 5 β pregnane-3,20-dione.

CONCLUSION

The Applicants believe that the arguments and species election set forth above traverse the Examiner's Restriction Requirement. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone interview would aid in the prosecution of this application, the Applicants encourage the Examiner to call the undersigned collect at 617.984.0616.

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